REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

In the Official Action dated March 25, 2004, the Examiner first objected to informalities in the specification and claims. In response, Applicant hereby amends the specification at pages 4, 8, 18 and 20 and Claims 4, 17-18 and 33 to correct the informalities. A further typographical error has been found on page 15, line 3 which the applicant now hereby corrects.

The Examiner further rejected Claims 10, 26 and 42 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as indefinite for allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Applicants hereby cancel Claims 10, 26 and 42 without prejudice, and reserve the right to reinstate or file these claims in a continuation or divisional application. Applicants' thus respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claims 10, 26 and 42 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Moreover, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8 13, 33, 34, 37-38, 40 and 45 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,481,741 to McKaskle et al. ("McKaskle"). The Examiner further rejected Claims 3, 4, 7, 9, 14-26, 29, 35-36, 39, 41, and 46-48 as allegedly unpatentable over McKaskle in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,138,150 to Nichols et al. ("Nichols"). Further claims were rejected based on combinations of the McKaskle and Nichols references.

With respect to the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8 13, 33, 34, 37-38, 40 and 45 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by McKaskle, applicants respectfully disagree.

While there are many differences between the present invention as claimed in independent Claims 1, 17 and 33, a most important feature that distinguishes the present invention over the prior art, is the fact that the McKaskle is primary a process modeler system

that enables generation of process flows diagrammatically using standard flow charting symbols and techniques. McKaskle basically comprises an interface, e.g., comprising built icons, for accessing programmable "attribute nodes" that effect (control) the output appearance of controls or indicators, e.g., provided in an instrumentation system user interface. This may be accomplished by "programming" a block diagram (See McKaskle Abstract). While functionality is provided for creating data flow programs, including attribute nodes, it is purely a graphical technique that provides the ability to link icons and/or other standard graphical elements to model a flow process.

The present invention, on the other hand, is a system and method for generating a flow chart out of raw data file input representing a large and complex process flow. The system receives the raw data file input, traverses the data and creates various data structures that are transportable over a network connection, e.g., the Internet, and generates an output representation of the process flow that includes representing successive processing operations in both vertical and horizontal dimensions in a manner that is easily understood. Further, the resulting flow chart is capable of being displayed, e.g., via a web-browser.

To clarify the invention, independent Claims 1, 17 and 33 are being amended to set forth that the flow chart generated representing a complex process flow is created from an input data file including data representing a multi-nodal process comprising processing operations and decision operations.

McKaskle does not take data representing a process flow from an input raw data file to generate a flow chart. Rather, McKaskle uses icons representing controls and indicators and implements standard graphical techniques to access and link these together to build a flow process. In fact, the Applicant fails to see the relevance of the McKaskle's Figure 8(a) and Figure 150(b) cited by the Examiner in support of the rejection. Applicant respectfully submits

that McKaskle, as a whole, is not relevant to what the present invention is trying to achieve which is the generation of a flow chart representing a complex process flow from an input raw data file.

Respectfully, Nichols is of no help in this regard. Nichols is directed to a system utilizing graphical objects to control a computer through the Internet. Applicant respectfully fails to see how the combination fairly teaches the method and system as claimed in the present invention.

Consequently, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections of all independent Claims 1, 17 and 33 and all claims either directly or indirectly dependent thereon.

In view of the foregoing remarks herein, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance be issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with the Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned, Applicants' attorney, at the following telephone number: (516) 742-4343.

Respectfully submitted,

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